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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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TAKESHI KAMIMURA

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7590

05/19/2004

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EXAMINER

POKRZYWA, JOSEPH R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2004

21

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/244,419

**Applicant(s)-**

KAMIMURA, TAKESHI

**Examiner**

Joseph R. Pokrzywa

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/27/04 has been entered.

### *Response to Amendment*

2. Applicant's amendment was received on 2/27/04, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1-16** are pending.

### *Response to Arguments*

3. Applicant's arguments filed 2/27/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. In response to applicant's arguments regarding the rejection of independent **claim 1**, cited in the Office action dated 8/27/03, as being anticipated by Baran (U.S. Patent Number 5,247,591), and as being anticipated by Ogaki *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,819,049) wherein applicant argues on pages 8 and 9 that Baran and Ogaki both fail to teach of recognizing an operation to be handled by an operation document image on a destination side and the operation can be started quickly and easily on the destination side, therein failing to disclose "an image

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identifying server for identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the species stored in the operation document image to retrieve the species stored in the workflow control table in response to the identified species, to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation, and to transmit a recognized result with the operation document image to the network". First, the examiner notes that the claim does not specifically require "recognizing an operation to be handled by an operation document image **on a destination side** and that **the operation can be started quickly and easily on the destination side**, as argued by applicant. However, the claim does include the limitation stated above regarding the image identifying server, which will be addressed below separately with respect to the reference of Baran and the reference of Ogaki.

5. With respect to the reference of Baran, as seen in column 3, line 67 through column 4, line 10, Baran teaches that a cover sheet of document 20 can include areas where the transmitting party can select various services or special treatment, such as "whether the fax mail being sent is to be private, how long it is to be retained on the system, to whom a blind copy of the message should be sent, to select recipient(s) of the message from a predefined distribution list, or to select a standard stored message that may be timely [sent] to the named recipient." This shows that an operation is, in fact, being recognized at the fax server.

6. Using this, one of ordinary skill in the art can recognize that Baran teaches of an image identifying server (fax server 42) for identifying the species of the operation document image (document 20) to retrieve the species (wherein a type of form is identified in the document 20, as read in column 3, lines 56 through 67) stored in the workflow control table in response to the identified species, as read in column 5, lines 38 through 43, and column 6, lines 21 through 34,

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and seen in steps 64 and 66 of Fig. 6. Next Baran teaches of automatically recognizing the corresponding destination and operation, as read in column 3, line 67 through column 4, line 10, and column 6, lines 21 through 54, wherein the destination is recognized, along with various operation, one being the selection of a standard stored message is timely sent to the named recipient. Finally Baran teaches of transmitting a recognized result (being a secondary cover sheet 44) together with the operation document image to the network (column 5, line 43 through column 6, line 54, wherein a cover sheet is transmitted to the recipient, along with the document 20).

7. Further, applicant stated on page 9 that Baran fails to teach of the limitation of dependent *claim 8*, which requires the destination terminal to automatically activate a program to perform the corresponding operation. Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 5, and further teaches that the destination terminal automatically activates a program performing the corresponding operation to the recognized result when the terminal receives the operation document image, as read in column 8, lines 25 through 46, whereby various actions, such as acknowledge, save, duplicate, reply, erase, or privacy operations are sent with the message, wherein the destination would perform the corresponding operations based on the letter in the action column.

8. Therefore, the rejections of independent *claim 1*, as well as independent *claims 12 and 13*, as cited in the Office action dated 8/27/03, under 35 U.S.C.102(b) being anticipated by Baran, are maintained and repeated in this Office action. Similarly, the rejections of dependent *claims 2-10*, and the rejection of *claim 14*, are also maintained and repeated in this Office action. Further, for the same reasons as discussed above, newly added *claim 15*, which is a duplicate of

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*claim 8* having all of the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims included therein, can also be interpreted as being anticipated by Baran.

9. With respect to the reference of Ogaki, the examiner notes that the image identifying server is noted as the file server 2, seen in Figs. 1-3. Further, Ogaki teaches that the image identifying server (file server 2) identifies the species of the operation document image to retrieve the species stored in the workflow control table in response to the identified species, as read in column 4, lines 47 through 59, wherein the sheet recognizing section 12 recognizes if a sheet is a document circulation sheet, and seen in step S13 in Fig. 13, and read in column 8, lines 45 through 61, wherein a document circulation sheet is determined using the document relating flag 82). Further, Ogaki teaches of automatically recognizing the corresponding destination and operation, seen in steps S15 and S17, column 8, lines 55 through 65, and in column 7, lines 1 through 10, wherein the option 88 includes a “selection of a reply to confirm that the document arrives at the destination, a confidential document, and the like”, thereby being interpreted as an “operation”. Finally, Ogaki teaches of transmitting a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (seen in step S27, column 9, lines 11 through 30).

10. Continuing, with respect to *claim 8*, Ogaki teaches that the destination terminal automatically activates a program performing the corresponding operation to the recognized result when the terminal receives the operation document image, as read in column 11, line 20 through column 12, line 58, specifically column 12, lines 17 through 25, wherein a document management application is started by a terminal, therein automatically activating a program performing the corresponding operation.

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11. Therefore, the rejections of independent *claim 1*, as well as independent *claims 12 and 13*, as cited in the Office action dated 8/27/03, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by Ogaki, are maintained and repeated in this Office action. Similarly, the rejection of dependent *claims 2-8* are also maintained and repeated in this Office action. Further, for the same reasons as discussed above, newly added *claim 15*, which is a duplicate of *claim 8*, having all of the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims included therein, can also be interpreted as being anticipated by Ogaki.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

12. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

13. **Claims 1-10, 12, 13, and 15** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baran (U.S. Patent Number 5,247,591, cited in the Office action dated 8/27/03).

Regarding *claim 1*, Baran discloses an image workflow system for use in transferring through a network (see abstract), an operation document image (or a work sheet image) which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (document 20, which includes a cover sheet, see Figs. 1-4, column 2, line 62 through column 5, line 23), comprising a workflow control table which stores in advance the species, the

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destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (column 4, line 66 through column 5, line 30), and an image identifying server for identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the species stored in the workflow control table in response to the identified species (column 6, lines 1 through 54), to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation (column 6, lines 21 through 54), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (column 6, lines 34 through 54).

Regarding *claim 2*, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches of an input device directly coupled to the image identifying server to supply an operation document as the operation document image into the image identifying server (see Fig. 4, and column 5, lines 31 through 68).

Regarding *claim 3*, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the recognized result is transmitted to the network together with the operation document in the form of a packet (column 8, lines 3 through 35).

Regarding *claim 4*, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 3, and further teaches of at least one terminal which includes a destination terminal as the destination and which is coupled to the network (see Fig. 4, and column 5, lines 6 through 23).

Regarding *claim 5*, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 4, and further teaches that the operation designated by the recognized result, at the destination terminal which receives the operation document image (see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 6 through 23, and column 8, lines 3 through 56).



Regarding **claim 6**, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the image identifying server identifies the species of the operation document image by using character recognition of an identification code representative of the species when the identification code is included in the operation document image (column 3, lines 9 through 43, and column 6, lines 21 through 34).

Regarding **claim 7**, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the image identifying server identifies the species of the operation document image by recognizing an image pattern particular to the operation document image when an identification code which stands for the species is not included in the operation document image (column 3, lines 9 through 43, and column 6, lines 21 through 34).

Regarding **claim 8**, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 5, and further teaches that the destination terminal automatically activates a program performing the corresponding operation to the recognized result when the terminal receives the operation document image (column 8, lines 25 through 46).

Regarding **claim 9**, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 3, and further teaches that the image identifying server transmits the packet to a plurality of destination terminals simultaneously when the plurality of destination terminals are associated with the identified species in the workflow control table (column 5, line 6 through column 6, line 20).

Regarding **claim 10**, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 3, and further teaches that the packet is transmitted from a first terminal to a second terminal after processing of the packet at the first terminal according to the destination terminals specified in the packet when the plurality of destination terminals are associated with the single identified species in the

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workflow control table (column 5, line 31 through column 6, line 54, and column 8, lines 3 through 46).

Regarding *claim 12*, Baran discloses a method of managing image workflow for transferring, through a network (see abstract), an operation document image which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (document 20 which includes a cover sheet, see Figs. 1-4, column 2, line 62 through column 5, line 23), comprising the steps of storing in advance, the species, the destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (column 4, line 66 through column 5, line 30), and identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the stored species in response to the identified species (column 6, lines 1 through 54), to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation (column 6, lines 21 through 54), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (column 6, lines 34 through 54).

Regarding *claim 13*, Baran discloses a computer readable medium which stores a program (column 6, line 55 through column 7, line 39) operable for managing image workflow for transferring, through a network (see abstract), an operation document image which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (document 20 which includes a cover sheet, see Figs. 1-4, column 2, line 62 through column 5, line 23), comprising the steps of storing in advance, the species, the destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (column 4, line 66 through column 5, line 30), and identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the stored species in response to the identified species (column 6, lines 1 through 54), to automatically recognize the

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corresponding destination and operation (column 6, lines 21 through 54), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (column 6, lines 34 through 54).

Regarding *claim 15*, Baran discloses an image workflow system for use in transferring through a network (see abstract), an operation document image (or a work sheet image) which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (document 20 which includes a cover sheet, see Figs. 1-4, column 2, line 62 through column 5, line 23), comprising a workflow control table which stores in advance the species, the destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (column 4, line 66 through column 5, line 30), an image identifying server for identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the species stored in the workflow control table in response to the identified species (column 6, lines 1 through 54), to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation (column 6, lines 21 through 54), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (column 6, lines 34 through 54), and at least one terminal which includes a destination terminal as the destination and which is coupled to the network (see Fig. 4, and column 5, lines 6 through 23), wherein the recognized result is transmitted to the network together with the operation document in the form of a packet (column 8, line 3 through column 9, line 45), wherein the operation document image is processed on the basis of the operation designated by the recognized result, at the destination terminal which receives the operation document image (see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 6 through 23, and column 8, lines 3 through 56), and wherein the destination terminal automatically activates a

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program performing the corresponding operation to the recognized result when the terminal receives the operation document image (column 8, lines 25 through 46).

14. **Claims 1-8, 12, 13, and 15** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogaki *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,819,040, cited in the Office action dated 8/27/03).

Regarding **claim 1**, Ogaki discloses an image workflow system for use in transferring through a network (see abstract), an operation document image (or a work sheet image) which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (circulation sheet, see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 36 through 50, and steps S1-S5 in Fig. 13, column 7, line 32 through column 8, line 41), comprising a workflow control table which stores in advance the species, the destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (see Fig. 10, column 6, line 37 through column 7, line 10), and an image identifying server for identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the species stored in the workflow control table in response to the identified species (column 4, lines 47 through 59, and step S13 in Fig. 13, column 8, lines 45 through 61), to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation (steps S15 and S17, column 8, lines 55 through 65), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (step S27, column 9, lines 11 through 30).

Regarding **claim 2**, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches of an input device directly coupled to the image identifying server to supply an operation document as the operation document image into the image identifying server (see Figs. 1-3, 11, and 12, column 4, lines 7 through 40).

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Regarding **claim 3**, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the recognized result is transmitted to the network together with the operation document in the form of a packet (column 1, line 31 through column 2, line 64, being a single electronic mail, which inherently is in the form of a packet).

Regarding **claim 4**, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 3, and further teaches of at least one terminal which includes a destination terminal as the destination and which is coupled to the network (see Figs. 1-3, 11, and 12, column 4, lines 7 through 62).

Regarding **claim 5**, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 4, and further teaches that the operation designated by the recognized result, at the destination terminal which receives the operation document image (column 8, line 59 through column 9, line 30).

Regarding **claim 6**, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the image identifying server identifies the species of the operation document image by using character recognition of an identification code representative of the species when the identification code is included in the operation document image (column 4, line 40 through column 5, line 65, and column 7, line 32 through column 8, line 41).

Regarding **claim 7**, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the image identifying server identifies the species of the operation document image by recognizing an image pattern particular to the operation document image when an identification code which stands for the species is not included in the operation document image (column 4, line 40 through column 5, line 65, and column 7, line 32 through column 8, line 41).

Regarding **claim 8**, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 5, and further teaches that the destination terminal automatically activates a program performing the

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corresponding operation to the recognized result when the terminal receives the operation document image (column 11, line 20 through column 12, line 58).

Regarding *claim 12*, Ogaki discloses a method of managing image workflow transferring, through a network (see abstract), an operation document image (or a work sheet image) which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (circulation sheet, see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 36 through 50, and steps S1-S5 in Fig. 13, column 7, line 32 through column 8, line 41), comprising the steps of storing in advance, the species, the destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (see Fig. 10, column 6, line 37 through column 7, line 10), and identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the stored species in response to the identified species (column 4, lines 47 through 59, and step S13 in Fig. 13, column 8, lines 45 through 61), to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation (steps S15 and S17, column 8, lines 55 through 65), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (step S27, column 9, lines 11 through 30).

Regarding *claim 13*, Ogaki discloses a computer readable medium (control section 11) which stores a program (column 4, lines 28 through 46, being inherent in the server 2) operable for managing image workflow for transferring, through a network (see abstract), an operation document image (or a work sheet image) which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (circulation sheet, see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 36 through 50, and steps S1-S5 in Fig. 13, column 7, line 32 through column 8, line 41), comprising the steps of storing in advance, the species, the destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (see Fig. 10, column 6, line 37 through column 7,

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line 10), and identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the stored species in response to the identified species (column 4, lines 47 through 59, and step S13 in Fig. 13, column 8, lines 45 through 61), to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation (steps S15 and S17, column 8, lines 55 through 65), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (step S27, column 9, lines 11 through 30).

Regarding **claim 15**, Ogaki discloses an image workflow system for use in transferring through a network (see abstract), an operation document image (or a work sheet image) which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (circulation sheet, see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 36 through 50, and steps S1-S5 in Fig. 13, column 7, line 32 through column 8, line 41), comprising a workflow control table which stores in advance the species, the destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (see Fig. 10, column 6, line 37 through column 7, line 10), an image identifying server for identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the species stored in the workflow control table in response to the identified species (column 4, lines 47 through 59, and step S13 in Fig. 13, column 8, lines 45 through 61), to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation (steps S15 and S17, column 8, lines 55 through 65), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (step S27, column 9, lines 11 through 30), and at least one terminal which includes a destination terminal as the destination and which is coupled to the network (see Figs. 1-3, 11, and 12, column 4, lines 7 through 62), wherein the recognized result is transmitted to the network together with the operation document in the form of a packet (column 1, line 31 through column 2, line 64, being a

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single electronic mail, which inherently is in the form of a packet), wherein the operation document image is processed on the basis of the operation designated by the recognized result, at the destination terminal which receives the operation document image (column 8, line 59 through column 9, line 30), and wherein the destination terminal automatically activates a program performing the corresponding operation to the recognized result when the terminal receives the operation document image (column 11, line 20 through column 12, line 58).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. **Claim 14** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baran (U.S. Patent Number 5,247,591, cited in the Office action dated 8/27/03) in view of Geshwind (WIPO Publication Number WO 96/41463, cited in the Office action dated 8/27/03).

Regarding **claim 14**, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, but fails to expressly disclose if the destination is an IP address.

Geshwind discloses an image workflow system for use in transferring through a network (see abstract), an operation document image (or a work sheet image) which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (cover sheet, see Fig. 1, page 4, line 30 through page 6, line 36). Further, Geshwind teaches that the destination is an IP address (see abstract, and page 6, line 13 through page 7, line 16).



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Baran & Geshwind are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, each capable of transmitting facsimile messages as electronic mail.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Geshwind to the system of Baran.

.. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Baran's system, which uses facsimile machines, would become usable with the Internet, thereby allowing facsimile machines to communicate with a large number of computers without requiring direct connections to each, as recognized by Geshwind (being read on pages 1 and 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Geshwind's teachings with Baran's system to obtain the invention as specified in *claim 14*.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

17. **Claim 11** is allowed.

18. **Claim 16** is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

19. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding ***claims 11 and 16***, in the examiner's opinion, it would not have been obvious to have the system, as claimed, include the feature of "the image identifying server observes efficiency of a plurality of terminals and selects one of the terminals which have the lowest efficiency as the destination terminal when the plurality of terminals are associated with the single identification species in the workflow control table."

***Citation of Pertinent Prior Art***

20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

**Yamamuro et al.** (U.S. Patent Number 5,973,791) discloses a system that transmits facsimile data along with an attached cover page; and

**Cooper et al.** (U.S. Patent Number 5,465,167) discloses a system that utilizes a marked form to transmit a message.

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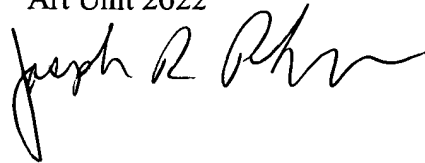
*Conclusion*

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (703) 305-0146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:00.

.. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joseph R. Pokrzywa  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2622



jrp